

Wickenburg Area Recreation Plan

Plan Objectives: Accommodate uses while protecting the natural and cultural values of the area.

Plan Scope:

- Implement a system of roads and trails per 43 CFR 8342.1
- Identify recreational management strategies for the area
- Identify facilities needed in the area to manage use
- Create a plan for funding, implementation and management

“This detailed plan will recognize and work within decisions made previously in the Resource Management Plan” (http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/afria_plan.html).

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| Area Uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OHV driving / riding• Hiking / Horseback Riding• Access to private / state land• Camping / day use• Wildlife viewing / birding / siteseeing• Mining / Ranching• Hunting• Energy transmission• Special recreation permits• Rock hounding, geocaching, paintball | Area Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing target shooting in unsafe locations/dumping• Unlicensed OHV driving on county maintained roads• Non-motorized Red Top Trail system entwined with a road system growing in popularity for ATV use• Access routes to BLM land crossing state and private - lands• Insufficient area for event parking / camping• Vehicle use in riparian habitat• Loss of Desert Tortoise habitat |
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Resource Management Plan Decisions

Manage the Red Top Trail system:

- Build trail links to Red Top trails, acquire easements
- Red Top Trail system is to be non-motorized
- Develop additional loop trails off of the core network

Develop Recreation:

- Build single use or multi-use routes/loops
- Build parking areas/staging/trailheads (small=1ac, large =5-10ac)
- Allow organized or competitive events in some areas
- Improve access to trails/areas involving partners such as Town of Wickenburg and Maricopa County Parks
- Allow target shooting consistent with RMP Guidelines
- Camping limited to 14 days
- Work with local community and groups for long term trail system maintenance and appropriate marketing
- Single-track and two-track motorized opportunities available (moderate/heavy use levels are acceptable in San Domingo Wash and Vulture Mountain areas)

Travel Management:

- Designate routes within 2 years of completion of the RMP
- Area will be managed for motorized / non-motorized travel modes
- Prohibit motorized game retrieval off of roads/trails
- Link roads/trails with other areas for multiple day experiences (motorized/non-motorized)

Improve Natural Resources:

- Mitigate or close all motor vehicle routes in riparian areas, specifically focused on “The Box”
- Manage Desert Tortoise for “no net loss in quantity or quality of habitat”
- Manage Vulture Peak ACEC for raptor nesting
- Follow guidance set forth in “common to all” sections of RMP as a baseline

Process Lands and Realty Actions:

- Utility/transportation corridor designated, issue rights-of-way in corridor
- Work cooperatively with land owners to give legal access to property and seek legal public access to public lands

Manage Cultural Resources:

- Develop some historic properties for heritage tourism
- Select certain sites for public use



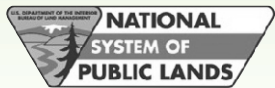
Partnering Agencies

Maricopa County
Parks and Recreation Dept.
234 N. Central Ave.
Suite 6400
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 506-2930
www.maricopa.gov/parks

Mission: Through responsible stewardship, provide quality parks, trails, programs, services and experiences that energize visitors and create life-long users and advocates.

United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Hassayampa Field Office
21605 N. 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027
(602) 580-5500
www.blm.gov/az/st/en.html

Mission: To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Vulture Mountain

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to initiate a formal working relationship and establish a general framework of cooperation upon which a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the Vulture Mountain Cooperative Recreation Management Area (Vulture Mtn.-CRMA) will be developed to determine the recreational uses and needs of the area; and to identify the management actions required to reach the desired outcomes of the Parties, the public, and surrounding communities. The RAMP will include the design of a recreation fee program addressing the criteria required in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) to establish standard and expanded amenity fees on public lands. After approval of the RAMP and completion of the environmental analysis, a separate agreement will be executed to establish the framework for plan implementation. Specific objectives of the RAMP include:

- Establish an appropriate managerial and physical framework for the collaborative management of recreation use in the Vulture Mtn.-CRMA.
- To retain the open space characteristics of the area, remaining available for public enjoyment in current and future generations, while ensuring the Vulture Mtn.-CRMA is retained in Federal ownership and including County's identified Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) areas.
- Produce sustainable beneficial outcomes from public recreation opportunities consistent with plan decisions and the desired future condition identified in land use plans.
- Provide for the protection of natural, cultural, historical, and wildlife resources and the sustainability of traditional uses in the Vulture Mtn-CRMA.
- Provide for public safety and mitigate or eliminate hazards as identified.
- Strive to reduce visitor use conflicts and avoid conflicts between the recreational and traditional uses.
- Promote collaborative management and community-based planning.
- Combine and utilize to the greatest extent possible, the knowledge, skills, and resources available from the Parties.

